

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NASA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CU-04 SSC-01  
/080 W

-----065952 101208Z /46

R 100729Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1456

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGSC PGOV, MA  
SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENTS ON NEW MALAGASY GOVERNMENT

REFS: (A) ANTANANARIVO 1410, (B) 1434; (C) 1435

1. SUMMARY. NEW SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC) MEMBERSHIP INFURES THAT A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S AREMA PARTY WILL PRESIDE OVER COUNCIL IN CASE OF PRESIDENT'S INCAPACITY. APPOINTMENT OF RADICAL AS MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY PROVE INTERESTING IN VIEW OF STUDENT PROCLIVITY TOWARD UNREST AND OPPOSITION. OLD PRIME MINISTER GOES OUT BADLY. LITTLE OF INTEREST KNOWN ABOUT NEW FOREIGN MINISTER EXCEPT THAT, LIKE NEW PRIME MINISTER, HE WAS ORIGINALLY RAISED OUT OF OBSCURITY BY FORMER CHIEF OF STATE RATSIMANDRAVA. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SRC (REF A) CORRECTED AT LEAST ONE DEFICIENCY PRESENT IN PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP. ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION THE SRC'S SENIOR MEMBER, AGE-WISE, PRESIDES OVER THE COUNCIL IN CASE OF THE PRESIDENT'S INCAPACITY. APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES RAVOAJANANARY, 60 YEARS OF AGE AND A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S AREMA PARTY, INSURES THAT AREMA MEMBER WILL PRESIDE OVER SRC IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. UNDER  
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OLD MEMBERSHIP IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ARSENE RATSIFEHERA, 57 YEARS OLD AND A MEMBER OF THE AKFM.

3. NEW MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS NOW LISTED AS AN ASSOCIATE OF THE FAR LEFT MFM "PROLETARIAN PARTY." THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE INTERESTING AS IT IS THE MFM IN THEPAST WHICH HAS STIRRED THE

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS INTO OPPOSITION ACTIVITY.

4. MAIN REASON FOR REMOVAL OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER IS NOW SAID TO BE THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF HIS REAPPOINTMENT WHICH HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PERSONNALLY STIMULATED AND WHICH IRRITATED RATSIRAKA. HIS PREVIOUS TENURE AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION PROBABLY ALSO COUNTED AGAINST HIM IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TROUBLES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR. HE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE TAKEN HIS REMOVAL WITH BAD GRACE. IN A FORMAL INTERVIEW WITH PRESS HE DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLIC PRAISE WHICH PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA HAD BESTOWED ON HIM ON JULY 31 BUT MERELY SAID THAT AS A GOOD REVOLUTIONARY HE HAD ALWAYS ACCEPTED HIS ASSIGNED TASKS AND WOULD DO SO AGAIN BY DEDICATING HIMSELF TO THE WORK OF THE SRC.

5. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT MUCH ABOUT THE NEW MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BORN IN 1941 AT MORONDAVA, HE STUDIED SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ANTANANARIVO FROM WHICH HE OBTAINED CERTIFICATES IN BOTANY, ZOOLOGY, BIOLOGY, BIO-CHEMISTRY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND MICROBIOLOGY. HE THEN ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF TOULOUSE WHERE HE OBTAINED CERTIFICATES IN ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN ANIMAL BIOLOGY. HE RETURNED TO ANTANANARIVO IN 1967 AND HELD SEVERAL TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE JOBS IN THE EDUCATIONAL  
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SYSTEM. IN 1975, THEN-CHIEF OF STATE RATSIMANDRAVA APPOINTED HIM MINISTER OF EDUCATION. HE BECAME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS IN 1976. BARRETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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